

96TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 252

To amend the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 to provide for investigations and expenditure analyses of the use of public funds.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 15, 1979

Mr. DELLUMS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Operations

A BILL

To amend the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 to provide for investigations and expenditure analyses of the use of public funds.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
2 That this Act may be cited as the "Continuing Congressional Oversight Act".

5 SEC. 2. Section 312 (a) of the Budget and Accounting
6 Act, 1921 (31 U.S.C. 53), is amended to read as follows:

7 "(a) The Comptroller General shall conduct a continuing investigation, at the seat of government or elsewhere,
8 of all matters relating to the receipt, disbursement, and application
9 of public funds, and shall make to the President when

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1 requested by him or her and to Congress at the beginning of
2 each regular session, a report in writing of the work of the
3 General Accounting Office containing findings and recommen-
4 dations concerning the legislation deemed necessary to facili-
5 tate the prompt and accurate rendition and settlement of
6 accounts and to assure that the expenditure of funds by de-
7 partments or establishments for any program or activity
8 conforms to the congressional intent in authorizing such
9 program or activity and concerning such other matters relat-
10 ing to the receipt, disbursement, and application of public
11 funds as the Comptroller General may think advisable. In
12 such regular report, or in special reports at any time when
13 Congress is in session, the Comptroller General shall make
14 recommendations looking to greater economy or efficiency in
15 public expenditures. Any report made under this section
16 shall be published in the Federal Register within thirty days
17 of its submission to Congress or the President."

18 SEC. 3. Section 206 of the Legislative Reorganization
19 Act of 1946 (31 U.S.C. 60) is amended to read as follows:

20 "**EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL**

21 "SEC. 206. (a) The Comptroller General is authorized
22 and directed to make a continuing expenditure analysis of
23 each department or establishment in the executive branch of
24 the Government (including any Government corporation)
25 which will enable Congress to determine whether—

1 “(1) public funds have been economically and
2 efficiently administered and expended;

3 “(2) programs or activities in operation or being
4 organized in the departments or establishments conform
5 to the congressional intent in authorizing such programs
6 or activities;

7 “(3) the policies and approaches in administering
8 such programs or activities have been brought or are
9 being brought into conformity with the congressional
10 intent in authorizing such programs or activities pursuant
11 to prior recommendations and reports made by the
12 Comptroller General; and

13 “(4) additional legislation is necessary to insure
14 that public funds are efficiently and economically ad-
15 ministered and expended, and public funds are used with
16 respect to programs or activities in accordance with
17 congressional authorization.

18 “(b) Reports on such analyses of each department or
19 establishment including any recommendations for legisla-
20 tion the Comptroller General may deem necessary relating
21 to efficient and responsible use of public funds shall be sub-
22 mitted to the Congress in such a manner that a report on
23 every department and establishment is submitted to the
24 Congress every four years and, in addition, interim reports
25 shall be made on any regular basis and in such manner as

1 the Comptroller General may determine to be proper. Such
2 reports shall be published in the Federal Register within
3 thirty days of their submission to Congress.

4 "(c) (1) Any head of a department or establishment
5 which is subject to an expenditure analysis authorized by
6 this section may give written notification to the Comptroller
7 General and to the chairpersons of the congressional commit-
8 tees having jurisdiction over the affairs of that part of the
9 department or establishment which is subject to the expend-
10 iture analysis advising them that in the opinion of the
11 head of the department or establishment such analysis or as-
12 pects of such analysis would jeopardize the national security.
13 Upon such notification, if any such committee determines
14 that the expenditure analysis should be carried out by a
15 congressional committee instead of the Comptroller General,
16 such committee shall proceed to conduct such analysis or as-
17 pects of such analysis.

18 "(2) Any such analysis carried out by a committee shall
19 be a complete expenditure analysis as described in subsec-
20 tion (a). Upon completing such analysis the committee shall
21 make an unclassified report to the Congress including any
22 recommendations for legislation the committee deems neces-
23 sary relating to efficient and responsible use of public funds
24 by the department or establishment subject to the expendi-
25 ture analysis."